

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-03 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OPR-02 NIC-01 /056 W

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P 291520Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2171

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0791

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: ETHYL-HELLAS STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: THESSALONIKI' S 0785

1. NOVEMBER 29 LOCAL PRESS NOTED CONTINUANCE OF STRIKE THROUGH FOURTH DAY YESTERDAY BY UNIONIZED EMPLOYEES OF ETHYL-HELLAS (REFTEL). ACCOUNTS REPORTED VISIT BY REPS OF STRIKERS AND LABOR CENTER UPON MIN OF NORTHERN GREECE MARTIS TO PROTEST COMPANY'S USE OF "UNSKILLED PERSONNEL" TO MAINTAIN PLANT OPERATIONS. MARTIS DIRECTED INSPECTOR OF LABOR TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS.

2. PAPERS STATE STRIKERS TO HOLD MEETING EVENING OF NOV 29 TO DECIDE UPON "INDEFINITE EXTENSION" OF STRIKE.

3. ALL PAPERS ALSO CARRIED LENGTHY AND PROMINENTLY PLACED RELEASE BY ETHYL-HELLAS TAKING ISSUE WITH STRIKERS WHO, IT STATES, REPRESENT LESS THAN HALF OF COMPANY' S 250 WORKERS. CHARGE OF "ANTI-LABORITE" COMPANY POLICY UNTRUE, RELEASE SAYS, POINTING TO HIGHER SLARIES PAID BY ETHYL THAN THOSE STIPULATED

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UNDER NATIONAL COLLECTIVE WAGE AGREEMENTS, IN ADDITION

VALUABLE GRANTS AND FRINGE BENEFITS. AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNINGS OF WORKERS AND TECHNICIANS HAVE RANGED FROM 9500 TO 11,000 DRACHMAS, AS OPPOSED TO SCALE OF 4600 TO 5000 DRS . UNDER WAGE AGREEMENTS, AND IN 1974 TAKE-HOME PAY BOOSTED FURTHER BY INCREASES AND FRINGE BENEFITS TO MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 15,000 TO 18,000 DRS., ACCORDING TO RELEASE.

4. RELEASE ENUMERATES VARIOUS OTHER BENEFITS FREELY OFFERED TO EMPLOYEES, AND THREATENS POSSIBLE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST STRIKING GROUP FOR HAVING "ABUSED ITS RIGHTS". CHARGE OF STRIKERS THAT USE OF "UNSKILLED PERSONNEL" TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS CONSTITUTES HAZARD TO THESSALONIKI AREA UNFOUNDED, STATEMENT CONTINUES, AND GROUP SIMPLY SEEKING TO STIMULATE PUBLIC EXCITEMENT AND FEAR TO DISRUPT PLANT OPERATIONS. RELEASE FINALLY EXPRESSES COMPANY APPRECIATION TO "MAJORITY OF ITS PERSONNEL WHO HAVE NOT JOINED UNJUSTIFIED STRIKE" AND THUS ASSURED NORMAL OPERATION OF INDUSTRY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, GR, ETHYL-HELLAS  
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